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## LETTERS TO THE TIMES

# Conflicting Stands Are Taken by Readers on Times Columnist

On Feb. 7 you published a letter from Jack Middlekauff, Redondo Beach, expressing his opinion of Drew Pearson. I congratulate Mr. Middlekauff for his appraisal of the columnist.

No doubt a vast number wonder how Pearson's syndicated lies and smears obtain outlets in large, respected newspapers, but news mediums have to earn a living, and this certainly involves catering to readers' tastes. Perhaps this is the reason Pearson is so popular.

Pearson is dedicated to fomenting scandal directed at the political prominent, stating that much that consists of pure fabrication; he knows that he enjoys immunity from contradiction because of his target's notoriety and awareness of Pearson's reputation for disregard of the truth.

Recent example of this were his diatribes directed at John F. Kennedy (whose assassination was overwhitened and confirmed) and Lyndon B. Johnson (now it can be seen that poison arrows directed to dilute his power with the impending identification of a woman associated with Gov. Rockefeller).

FRANK WHITE

In order to keep the people from the truth, the government has...

kept, and as it seems very reluctantly, the Drew Pearson column. (See your attack on Mr. Pearson of Jan. 17, 1962 in regard to McCone, see the contribution of Mr. Middlekauff you published on Feb. 7). It would be only fair—if you really mean to serve divergent readers' interests, to publish a reply to Mr. Middlekauff's letter.

I have been reading Mr. Pearson's column for more than 20 years, also followed events resulting from Mr. Pearson's column as closely as possible. A former political journalist myself and a tax-paying citizen, I am keenly interested in the happenings behind the scenes in Washington. Mr. Pearson cannot be bought, following the best traditions of journalism. Instead of likening Mr. Pearson to gossip columnists, I would liken him to Marcus Porcius Cato the conscience of Rome.

LOUISE SCHNEIDER  
Los Angeles